BELFAST LUNATIC ASYLUM.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 11 March 1859;—*for*,

COPY "of the CORRESPONDENCE which passed between the Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland* and the Governor of the *Belfast* District Lunatic Asylum, relating to certain alleged Errors in the Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the State of the Lunatic Asylums of *Ireland*, regarding the *Belfast* Asylum."

Chief Secretary's Office, Dublin Castle, 21 March 1859.

THOMAS A. LARCOM.

District Lunatic Asylum, Belfast,
11 February 1859.

Sir,

I HAVE been directed by the Governors respectfully to request that you will take the *earliest* opportunity of calling the *special* attention of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant to the following serious errors contained in the Report of the Royal "Commissioners of Inquiry into the state of the Lunatic Asylums in Ireland," as presented to Parliament at the end of the last Session. The errors in question are at page 45 of the Commissioners' Report, in the Return, "Showing the total of articles consumed in each of the several District Asylums for the year ended 25th December 1856." In that Return, under the head of "Bread," the quantity given as consumed in this asylum is but "28,588 lbs.," whereas it was nearly four times that amount, viz., 99,898 lbs.

Again, as regards "Ox heads," in the same Return, this asylum has a blank attached to it, whereas 797 were used, as duly stated to the Commissioners.

The Governors might also adduce another error (but of minor consequence) in the same Return in respect of tea, which is set down 10 lbs. *less* than it should have been; but it is more particularly with reference to the "Bread and ox heads" that the Governors consider the entire official staff of the institution to be most deeply compromised before Parliament and the public generally by the above extraordinary, and to them entirely unaccountable mistakes on the part of the Royal Commissioners, mistakes which they now earnestly request his Excellency will be pleased to have *immediately* inquired into, and the correct statement made as public as the erroneous one has been. The Governors feel the more strongly and deeply on this point, inasmuch as, at page 14 of the Commissioners' Report, the following extract, imputing nothing short of fraud, occurs, viz., "Copies of the dietary tables of asylums and of Returns showing the consumption of the principal articles of food will be found in the Appendix. These Returns, however, differ widely from the allowances specified in the Diet Tables of *some* asylums, and *we cannot reconcile the apparent discrepancy*. If the Returns of consumption are correct, the patients *cannot receive the amount of food professed to be allowed to them*."

The Governors have only to observe, with reference to the above quoted extract, the italics in which are their own, that as regards the Belfast Asylum, "the apparent discrepancy" is at once accounted for by the Commissioners' own palpably incorrect Returns, and which they now respectfully and firmly claim

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the right of having the unwarrantable imputation it contains against the administration of this institution (implying both fraud and cruelty) *publicly* disclaimed.

The Governors enclose herewith an extract from the office copy of the Return with which the Commissioners were supplied of the articles consumed here in 1856, as well as an extract from their own general Table, so far as relates to the Belfast Asylum, of those articles, in order to show how materially each differs; and as has been already pointed out.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Robert Stewart*, M.D.,
Resident Physician.

To Colonel Larcom, R.E.,
Under Secretary, Dublin Castle.

BELFAST DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM.

EXTRACT from RETURN of the Total Quantities of the following Articles consumed in the ASYLUM for the Year ending 25 December 1856.

	Tons.	*Cwts.*	*Qrs.*	*Lbs.*
Bread - - - -	44	11	3	22
Ox heads (797) - -	4	19	2	14
Tea - - - - - - - -		3	1	10

EXTRACT from Commissioners' Report, viz., p. 45, No. 5.

TABLE showing the Total Quantities of the following Articles consumed in each of the several DISTRICT ASYLUMS for the Year ending 25 December 1856.

BELFAST.

Bread - - - - - -	28,588 lbs.
Ox heads - - - - - -	—
Tea - - - - - - -	364 lbs.

Belfast District Asylum,
11 February 1859.

R. Stewart, M.D.,
Resident Physician.

Sir,

Dublin Castle, 18 February 1859.

I AM directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, and its enclosure, relative to errors contained in the Report of the Royal Commissioners of Inquiry into the state of the Lunatic Asylums in Ireland.

I am, &c.
(signed) *Thomas A. Larcom.*

Robert Stewart, Esq.,
Resident Physician
District Lunatic Asylum, Belfast.

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BELFAST LUNATIC ASYLUM.

COPY of the CORRESPONDENCE which passed between the Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland* and the Governor of the *Belfast* District Lunatic Asylum, relating to certain alleged Errors in the Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the State of the Lunatic Asylums of *Ireland*, regarding the *Belfast* Asylum.

(*Mr. Davison.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
4 *April* 1859.

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Under 1 *oz.*

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